

Texas Governor visits depot Marines, families

BY CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER
Chevron staff

Texas Gov. Rick Perry made a special visit to the depot Aug. 1.

On vacation in California, Perry wanted to tour the depot to witness recruit training highlights and visit with fellow Texans in uniform and their families, according to Capt. Darren S. Szerdy, depot protocol officer.

“My visit was every bit of special as I thought it would be,” said Perry. “The weather was perfect and the Marines were phenomenal. The hospitality was Texas-style.”

After greeting depot mascot Cpl. Molly Marine, Perry observed the Friday morning Colors Ceremony where he began meeting friends and families of Company B.

After the ceremony, Perry took photos with Texas families visiting the depot to see their new Marines graduate after boot camp.

Perry, who served as an Air Force pilot for five-years, then headed to the depot’s

60-foot rappel tower to watch Company I recruits face their fear of heights.

The governor then met Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas, commanding general, MCRD San Diego and Western Recruiting Region, for breakfast at Quarters One.

“We are honored to have had him here,” said Brig. Gen. Salinas.

Brig. Gen. Salinas, along with Parade Reviewing Officer, Maj. Gen. Michael R. Lehnert, commanding general, Marine Corps Installations West, accompanied the governor to watch more than 200 young Americans become Marines.

After graduation, Perry met with several Texas-born Marines like Pfc. Matthew White and Pvt. Adam Hudson from Company B, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Wheeler, seniordrill instructor, 1st Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment.

“It was an honor to meet him,” said Wheeler, a native of Santa Fe, Texas. “He’s a good guy with good values

and a family man. It was a morale-boosting experience.” Many families waited in

line to meet the governor and express their support. Perry returned his thanks.

“I enjoyed every minute of this. I’m glad I got to come here.”



Texas Gov. Rick Perry, left, meets with Company I recruits from Texas during a special visit here Aug. 1. Perry was on vacation in California and he wanted to visit the depot to meet Texas Marines and their families.

Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

Motorcycle safety fair reiterates CMC rider policy changes

BY LANCE CPL. SHAWN DICKENS
Chevron staff

The Motorcycle Safety Fair hosted by depot Safety, the MCRD Command Museum and the Single Marine Program took place at the Boathouse and Marina July 17.

The goal of the fair was to boost service members’ awareness of motorcycle safety in an upbeat atmosphere while also informing service members about changes to motorcycle policy Marine Corps wide; however, the event had a somber start.

The event took place on a day the Marine Corps sustained another Marine death due to a motorcycle-related accident. This accident marked the fifth two-wheel death the Marine Corps has suffered in July, putting the total number of Marines lost in motorcycle-related incidents at 20 since Oct. 1, making this fiscal year the deadliest on record.

“Marines have the mentality, especially

young Marines, that they are invincible. We have to change that outlook,” said Sgt. Maj. Terry Hoskins, Headquarters and Service Battalion.

The recent fatality drove the point home that as a whole the military must continue to get the message out to service members that safety is paramount when operating a motorcycle.

Colonel. Ken Helfrich, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion issued the opening remarks of the fair, speaking about the importance of taking motorcycle safety classes, the wearing of proper personal protective equipment, and the responsibility of every Marine to ensure that fellow Marines adhere to the new updates to Marine Corps policy.

“The safety of Marines is our main concern,” said Helfrich. “We (the Marine Corps) are losing too many Marines to preventable accidents.”

The attendees were free to visit the displays and vendor booths set up around

the recreation area. Some of the vendors on site included the San Diego Police Department, Law Tigers motorcycle injury lawyers, and RND Motor sports.

While the SDPD raised awareness via static displays, other vendors donated prizes for the raffles. Items like free gas cards, motorcycle accessories, and the grand prize, a new riding jacket and helmet, were raffled off throughout the day.

“Protective equipment is important” said Hoskins. “Everything has a purpose, from the helmet on your head to the boots on your feet.”

“Did you have a bicycle when you were younger?” Hoskins asked the crowd.

Sounds like a strange question at first, but it quickly makes sense as the sergeant major continues with his question.

“Do you remember what it felt like to fall off your bike going no more than 10 miles per hour?” he continued. “Now imagine doing so going 40 miles per hour on a motorcycle. That’s slow when you

think about it, but without protective equipment it could be devastating.”

The majority of the riders in attendance had stories to share, like the most recent ride they have taken through a scenic back road or a new upgrade they have made to their bikes. Stories about a friend who had an accident or more personal experiences with laying a bike down themselves filled the air around picnic tables as patrons shared lunch together.

“We as leaders need to be active in ensuring that our Marines are doing the right thing,” said Hoskins, “The lessons learned in a (motorcycle) safety course are important, but they don’t replace our role as leaders.”

Motorcycle safety is everyone’s responsibility, both riders and non-riders alike.

“We should all ensure the riders we know are doing the right thing every time they ride whether it is as leaders passing information to junior Marines, or just as one rider to another, said,” Hoskins.



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RTR executive officer retires

COMPILED BY CHEVRON STAFF
MCRD Public Affairs

After serving 21 years of faithful service to the Marine Corps, Lt. Col. Scott L. McLennan, former executive officer for Recruit Training Regiment, bids farewell to his brothers in arms during his retirement ceremony at the waterfront near the Boathouse and Marina Aug. 1.

McLennan will reside in San Diego where he plans to spend more time with his son, and to work in command and control systems testing with I Marine Expeditionary Force at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

“It seems like I joined the Marine Corps yesterday,” said McLennan, a native of Tucson, Ariz. “I have had a wonderful career.”

Commissioned in 1987, McLennan served as a tank platoon commander and executive officer for Company B, 3rd Tank Battalion. While serving as the executive officer, McLennan deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in February 1991.

He then transferred to 7th Marines in August 1993, where he served as the assistant operations officer and regimental operations officer.

In November 1994, he transferred to 1st Tank Battalion

where he served as the commander of Headquarters and Service Company and Company D.

McLennan then attended the Command and Control System Course in Quantico, Va., in July 1996, before reporting to I Marine Expeditionary Force as the information management officer and Command Center officer-in-charge, in May.

In June 2000, McLennan was assigned to the Naval War College where he attended the Naval Command and Staff Course and graduated with the highest distinction.

McLennan transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in the summer of 1994, where he served as the executive officer for Headquarters and Service Battalion, then as executive officer for RTR near the end of 2006.

“I love working with young Marines,” said McLennan. “That is why I wanted to come to the depot. I love helping individual Marines. Whether wounded warriors at (Naval Medical Center San Diego) or young Marines here who I can motivate and help them reach their goals. Having a positive impact on someone’s life lasts a long time.”

Under his assignment at RTR, the regiment made several accomplishments.

“(McLennan) has been crucial

to our turnover,” said Col. Gregg T. Habel, commanding officer, RTR. “He orchestrates and makes things happen. He takes personal interest in Marines and their families. I can not think of anyone who knows more about the day-to-day operations aboard the depot than (McLennan).”

During McLennan’s tenure, RTR made 29,000 basically trained Marines. In addition, McLennan directed staff members through the development of a new, more effective recruit training schedule that included a new physical training program that attributed to a historically low 8.6% injury attrition rate.



Lt. Col. Scott L. McLennan gives his final remarks during his retirement ceremony Aug. 1 at the water-front near the Boathouse and Marina here. McLennan will reside in San Diego where he plans to spend more time with his son and to work as a civilian contractor with I Marine Expeditionary Force. *Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron*

McLennan oversaw renovation for 36 recruit squad bays, their mess hall and training equipment and areas—all while ensuring minimal training impact.

During the ceremony, McLennan was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his contributions to RTR, and certificates of commendation from President George W. Bush, Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps and RTR’s commanding officer.

“I’m going to miss the professionalism of the phenomenal Marines I was surrounded by every day at the depot,” said McLennan.

Memorial honors departed depot mascots

BY LANCE CPL. SHAWN DICKENS
Chevron staff

Just off Guadalcanal Ave. located behind the depot’s recruit chow hall, stands a marble monument dedicated to fallen Devil Dogs who gave their lives to the Corps not in combat, but in companionship.

The 7-foot-tall monument, located near Paige Field here, is surrounded by a hedge and honors the mascots of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The names James Jolly Plum Duff; Soochow; Duffy’s Limey Grog; Jigger and Duffy are etched into the smooth marble slab – names of the four-legged friends who were selected to earn the prestigious title of depot mascot.

The term Devil Dog or “Teufel Hunden” has been used to describe Marines since World War I because of the ferocious way they fought in battle. German soldiers compared the Marines to the wild and ferocious mountain dogs of Bavarian folklore.

Soon after, a Marine Corps recruiting poster depicted a snarling English bulldog wearing a Marine helmet chasing a dachshund wearing a German helmet. The words “Teufel Hunden German nickname for U.S. Marines” were printed over the image.

Because of the demeanor of the English bulldog breed, the image fit, and the public and Marines began associating the bulldog with the Marine Corps.

However, the bulldog was not the official Marine Corps mascot until 1921 when Marine Corps Commandant Brig. Gen. Smedley D. Butler purchased an English bulldog named King Bulwark. At the time his name was not considered appropriate for a Marine and would later be changed to Jiggs.

According to museum archives, Jiggs may have been the first mascot of the Corps, but it was James Jolly Plum Duff, also an English

bulldog, who in 1939 received the honor of being the first official mascot of MCRD San Diego.

Duff earned the rank of sergeant and served as the depot mascot until his death on May 15, 1945. Before he died, Duff sired an offspring known as Duffy’s Limey Grog who would later replace him as the depot mascot. Duffy’s Limey Grog enlisted on July 24, 1941 at Camp Elliot, Calif., as the mascot for the 2nd Marine Division. After his father’s death, he moved to the depot and later on to recruiting duty with his handler.

While Duffy was still here, a new mascot arrived on the depot in the form of a sad-eyed multi-breed canine with two service stripes. The small dog didn’t quite fit into the normal bulldog as a mascot mold, but Soochow was a battle-proven honorary Marine and by far, one of the most famous mascots ever to reside on the depot.

Soochow began his Marine Corps career in Shanghai, China, in 1937 as the mascot of Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, during the unit’s time there. By the time the regiment shipped out to the Philippines in 1941, not too long before World War II, the entire regiment had claimed the small dog as their mascot.

Wherever the Marines went, so did Soochow. He was with them during the siege of Corregidor in the Philippines and was captured with the Marines when the island surrendered on May 6, 1942. Soochow followed his Marines during the Bataan Death March on the Philippine island of Luzon and spent nearly three years in various prisoner-of-war camps until he and 17 Marines were liberated in 1945.

Upon arriving in the United States, Soochow was taken to depot to spend the rest of his life serving as the mascot.

Soochow’s service record, which was found

after he was liberated from the POW camp, told of his adventures and the awards he earned, including the Philippine Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, WWII Victory Medal and American Defense Medal.

On October 29, 1946, the depot celebrated Soochow’s ninth birthday and promotion to sergeant with what may have been the only parade to ever honor a mascot. Col. Bert A. Bone, commanding officer, Recruit Training Regiment, presented Soochow with his promotion.

In the end it was not just the role of mascot that earned these Teufel Hunden a spot on the monument, but the way they lived up to the inscription that is carved into the marble over the list of names “...man’s Guardian...man’s Friend, the only creature faithful to the end.”



Technical Sgt. Paul J. “Pappy” Wells with Pfc. Soochow at Degupen, a small village near Lingayen Gulf, the Philippines, shortly after they were liberated from Bilbid Prison in Manila, in January 1945. *Official DoD photo by Steve Bell, provided by the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Marine Corps Museum*

BRIEFS

Montford Point Marine Association Annual Scholarship Banquet

The Montford Point Marine Association, San Diego Chapter 12 will host their Annual Scholarship Banquet Aug. 22 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Naval Base San Diego Anchors Catering & Conference Center, Bldg. 3210. The keynote speaker will be retired Gun-nery Sgt. C. R. Troy Walker. Cocktails, dinner, dancing and prizes will be featured. For information call (619) 264-7487.

Barracks Bash

A summer barracks bash will be held at the depot barracks Aug. 22 at 4 p.m. for all single military members. There will be a DJ and free food and drinks. The first 200 guests will receive custom embroidered Single Marine Program beach towels from Semper Fit. For information call (619) 203-3277 or e-mail muenchul@usmc-mccs.org.

Internet safety class for children

A free internet safety class for school-aged children of active duty, reservists, retirees and DoD employees will be held Aug. 19 from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Family Advocacy Program Conference Room, Bldg. 6E. Featured speakers include Assistant U.S. Attorney, Alessandra P. Serano and Sgt. Chuck Arnold, director, Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce. For information call Laura Texier at (619) 524-1200 or e-mail laura.texier@usmc.mil.

Learn to fix your car’s brakes

A free class on how to fix your car’s breaks will be held Sept. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the depot Auto Skills Center. The class is open to active duty military, reservists, retirees and DoD employees and their guests. A Mexican buffet and free prize drawing for a front-end brake job will be provided. Sign up on-line at mccsmcrd.com. For information call Jose Ortega-Garcia at (619) 524-5240 or e-mail ortegagarcia@usmc-mccs.org.

Boot Camp Challenge training

Train for the Boot Camp Challenge 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the depot Field House. This 12-week program from July 15 to Oct. 2, is available for depot personnel and their families. Sign up on-line at mccsmcrd.com. For information call (619) 524-4427.

Quarterly transportation vouchers

The next Mass Transportation Voucher pick-up occurs August 12 at the Education Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Those unable to attend should submit their name and the last four digits of their social security number to Sgt. Kaufenberg at jordan.kaufenberg@usmc.mil or at the Finance Office. For Transportation Incentive Program information call (619)-524-1721.

SEND BRIEFS TO:
roger.edwards@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

West Coast educators visit depot



Sgt. Kenneth Pless, Receiving Company drill instructor, instructs educators from Recruiting Stations Portland, Ore., and Los Angeles, Sacramento and Orange, Calif., to kneel as they wait to enter the receiving area for their initial welcome aboard and recruit training regiment brief Tuesday. The educators are given a traditional recruit welcome when they arrive at the depot's famous yellow footprints. *Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron*

BY CHEVRON STAFF

High school administrators, teachers and counselors from Recruiting Stations Portland, Ore., Los Angeles, Sacramento and Orange, Calif., experienced a week-long synopsis of Marine Corps recruit training during the Educators Workshop Monday through today.

The bus-loads of educators were given a taste of how drill instructors greet new recruits on the well-known yellow footprints. The yellow footprints are used by drill instructors to initiate the total transformation from civilian to Marine and begin to teach immediate obedience to orders.

"I didn't expect to see so much going on with recruits in such a short amount of time," said John Santos, a Cal State teacher in Los Angeles. "The concentration, the intensity plus the how much dedication each recruit gives in order to get through this. It shows you why Marines are so proud to be called Marines."

The educators were given a tour of a squad bay and got a taste of what "Black Friday," the day that the recruits meet their training drill instructors, is all about.

Educators were able to see a demonstration of the Bayonet Assault Course on the depot. Company E Marines

maneuvered through obstacles, crawled through tunnels and carried rubber M-16A2 service rifles while wearing Kevlar helmets for the educators.

"Having drill instructors, officers and other Marines taking the time to explain all the things on the tour today helped gives us a better understanding of what a Marine goes through," Santos said. "For a lot of us it was a truly eye opening experience."

The educators also visited Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to witness weapons firing, field training, the Crucible, the Emblem Ceremony, and the Warrior's Breakfast.

"I think the trip was very valuable and also necessary," said Larry Morene, a teacher at Mazama High School in Klamath, Ore. "If we as educators give young men and women advice, we need to know how life is in the military. If a student asks me about joining the Marines I can give him a better answer now just from (the trip). I really learned a lot."

The general consensus of the educators leaving the depot today was they have a better understanding of the Marine Corps and the young men and women who embody it.

"I have much more respect for Marines now," Morene said. "I learned a lot and really



Teachers and administrators from the West Coast try out some moves taught to recruits when they undergo Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training. Educators visited the depot this week to learn what their students face in recruit training. *Cpl. Kevin M. Knallay/Chevron*



A Marine with Company E demonstrates the proper way to cross a rope bridge as he runs the Bayonet Assault Course Tuesday while education professionals observe. The educators were here this week to see what Marine recruit training is all about. *Cpl. Kevin M. Knallay/Chevron*

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Pfc. Juan E. Martinez, Platoon 2113, Company E, uses his compass to shoot an azimuth as he and his team work their way through the route laid out for them in the Land Navigation Course. The Land Navigation Course is not only designed to test an individual recruit's knowledge of land navigation; teamwork is also tested. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron



After collecting three ammunition cans, recruits move toward the northern portion of the course to begin the next phase of the exercise. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron



Pfc. Kevin J. Chan, Platoon 2110, Company E, with pen, takes a moment to ensure that he and his team have a consensus on their plan to locate the ammunition cans during the Land Navigation Course. Company E recruits went through the exercise at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton Calif., July 1 during their Field Week training. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron



Two recruits stay behind to ensure they are on the correct path toward their next point. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron

Company E recruits sharpen land navigation skills

BY PFC. PAUL MATTHEW BROWN
Chevron staff

Over the years new technologies have made life easier. Hybrid cars, high-speed internet, video games, even little devices that kindly give directions to lost travelers and are second nature to most. Many become dependent on these technologies. Because Marines may end up in a situation where these technologies are not available to them, they must learn fundamental knowledge in areas such as land navigation. Company E Marines were no exception.

The recruits of Company E were at field week at Edson Range, July 1 learning basic land navigation. The recruits attended several classes lasting the majority of the morning. They were taught how to read a military map, convert individual pace counts to measurable distance, use a lensatic compass, use terrain identification and basic navigational techniques.

After participating in these classes, it was time to see if the recruits could successfully apply their new knowledge in a field exercise.

Just before the exercise, each fire-team leader was given a map of the immediate area, a compass and a set

of eight-digit grid coordinates. To complete the course successfully, the teams had to locate three ammunition cans.

There are different sets of points recruits can receive in the land navigation exercise. Each fire-team starts at a different spot.

Once the exercise began, recruits were released to navigate and locate their three ammunition cans with approximately 2000 meters of hilly terrain separating each can. After the recruits located one of the cans, they recorded the marker number on it.

If a fire team was unable to locate their cans, they would then be given advice by their field instructors, then sent out again until they located all three correct locations or until the horn sounded for the end of the exercise.

The course wasn't only designed to test individual recruit's knowledge of land navigation; teamwork was also being tested.

"Working as a team was the most difficult part to me because everyone wanted to talk," said Pvt. Jacob Fowler, Platoon 2110, from Jackson Miss. "We had some difficulties, but we recovered. We needed to step back and let the leader lead."

Recruits also tested their land navigation skills during a night exercise.

"The night evolution tonight is a little more challenging because they can not see the boxes and must rely on the pace count technique they learned earlier," said Staff Sgt. Michael Houtz, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2115.

Although the recruits will have practiced land navigation several times during recruit training, this would not be the last time they would use their new skill.

"During the Crucible, the recruits will utilize the grid system yet again," said Houtz.

Later, when the Marine's go to their respective training at the School of Infantry, Marine Combat Training or Infantry Training Battalion (if they are going into an infantry occupation), they will again use their land navigation skills.

"I thought land navigation was a good experience," Fowler said. "I am looking forward to expanding on it and using it later on in my career." Fowler is slated to go to the Infantry Training Battalion following recruit training to become a rifleman.

Now that these Marines have learned the fundamentals, they have the ability to go on to more advanced training with these root skills to fall back on, according to Houtz.



A team leader leads his team through the Land Navigation Course. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron



After collecting ammunition can ID numbers, a fire team takes a road on the left to get back to the field instructors.



To ensure their teammates head in the right direction, a fire team uses a signpost. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron



Pfc. Benjamin L. Carr, Platoon 2109, Company E, reviews the ammunition can ID numbers his fire team collected with a field instructor. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron



A fire team hikes through the brush in an effort to locate one of their ammunition can waypoints. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron



A group of recruits stop in a valley and take a moment to regain their bearing to make sure they are heading in the right direction. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron



After locating an ammunition can, a fire team records the ID number on its side and prepares to find their next ammunition can. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron

Russian emigrant finds home in America and the Corps

BY CPL. KEVIN M. KNALLAY
Chevron Staff

For most of his childhood while growing up in Russia, Pvt. Jason Dolan, 18, Platoon 2111, Company E, focused mainly on one thing – survival.

“(My family) never had food around,” said Dolan. “We were always searching for food it seemed. My mindset was always on surviving and taking care of my family.”

Born in Kaliningrad, Russia, a seaport between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea, Jason grew up living on the streets and living “shelter to shelter” in the city because his parents both suffered from alcohol abuse and couldn’t care for their children. Around the age of four, he would spend most of his day searching for food with his two sisters and younger brother.

Jason got by in the streets until he was seven, when Russian social services put him in an orphanage with his brother. His brother had been sent to the orphanage too, roughly six months before Jason.

He lost contact with his two sisters while in the orphanage.

Randy Dolan and Candis Duke adopted Jason and his brother about six months after Jason had arrived at the orphanage.

“I could tell they weren’t from Russia,” said Jason, remembering the first time he saw his adoptive parents. “I could tell they were a happy family, which is something I hadn’t seen much before. They were people that wanted to love.”

With a new American family, Jason and his brother began living in California. Jason said the shift to an American lifestyle was shocking, but easy to accept.

“I was excited – you could just see the freedom by the way people lived,” Jason says, recalling his first day in America. “Living like that felt like a life you could really enjoy.”

Jason later went to Agape Boarding School, a Christian school in Stockton, Mo. It was at the school Jason had his first contact with a former U.S. Marine, who was a staff member at the school.

“He would tell me stories about his experiences in the Marines,” he said. “He was a sniper in Vietnam. He first sparked my interest in the Marines.”

Eventually, Jason met recruiters who further interested him in becoming a Marine. He first tried to get into the Delayed Entry Program at the age of 16 and then again at 17, but was not able to enlist until 18. The DEP is an enlistment with an agreement to go to boot camp at a later date.

Jason said his family was supportive in his decision to join the U.S. armed forces.

“I always encouraged him to do what was in his heart,” said Randy, a former U.S. Air Force fighter pilot. “I’m really happy to see him realize he can do anything he sets his mind to.”

Jason enlisted with a friend, Pvt. Jacob D. Kirby, Platoon 2111, through the buddy program, a guarantee to be able to attend basic training together.

“He’s like a brother,” Jason said. “I’ve known him for five years. He had also been through a rough childhood. We helped each other through hard times and could always rely on each other.”

Jason also found inspiration in Staff Sgt. Jose Umana, his senior drill instructor.

“I have a lot of respect for him,” Jason said. “He is a role model for me. He’s been through a lot, is responsible and very disciplined.”

Umana said that Jason left an impression on him despite being one of the quieter recruits.

“He is a pretty quiet individual,” Umana said. “But when it’s time to get something done, he’d get it done no matter what. You can really identify the recruits



Pvt. Jason Dolan, Platoon 2111, Company E, stands at attention during the unit’s Battalion Commander’s Inspection Tuesday, on Shepherd Memorial Drill Field. The Battalion Commander’s Inspection is one of the final events before their graduation ceremony today. *Cpl. Kevin M. Knallay/Chevron*

who have had a tougher life. He wasn’t scared about what was going to happen. I can tell he has no fear.”

Jason, who enlisted for four years as a combat control electrician, reflected back on his experience through boot camp and said there where a few moments where

he surprised himself. “I found myself saying, ‘I can’t believe I did this.’”

During the Crucible, a field training event that lasts 54 hours and includes a 9.7-mile hike with a 700-foot tall mountain, named the Reaper; he had one of those moments.

“We were climbing (the Reaper) in the dark,” he said. “It felt like the hike would never end. I was hurting, but I was proud I had made it through and to the top. Standing at the top of the Reaper, looking out over the landscape, I thought after all the pain and struggle – it was worth it.”

Maj. Gen. Bobby G. Butcher (Ret.)

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Retired Maj. Gen. Bobby G. Butcher was born in Mineral Wells, W. Va. Following graduation from West Virginia University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in July 1959.

Upon completion of flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., and NAS, Kingsville, Texas, he was designated a naval aviator in November 1960. His first operational flying assignment was with VMA-242, flying the A4D-2 Skyhawk at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. He was promoted to first lieutenant in January 1961. During July 1962, he deployed with VMA-224 to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing as the embarkation officer and assistant landing signal officer of the squadron until October 1963.

Transferred back to the United States, he was assigned to the NAS Kingsville, where he served as a flight instructor and LSO in F9s until July 1966. While in this assignment, he was promoted to captain in July 1964. He then transferred to Quantico, Va., to attend the Amphibious Warfare School, and upon completion of school in January 1967, he received refresher training in the A-4. In June 1967, Maj. Gen. Butcher reported to VMA-311

at Chu Lai, in the Republic of Vietnam, for duty as the squadron’s flight officer and LSO.

In October 1967, he returned from overseas, and reported to the Landing Force Training Command, Pacific, Coronado, Calif., where he served as an aviation instructor in the Supporting Arms Branch. He was promoted to major in November 1967. He then returned to the 1st MAW in May 1970, as the embarkation officer of various units. He was next assigned a two-year tour as the officer-in-charge, Officer Selection Office, Philadelphia, Pa.

He returned to Quantico where he was a student at the Command and Staff College. Upon completion of school in June 1974, he reported to VMAT-102 with the 3rd MAW at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., for duty as the operations officer, executive officer and commanding officer. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in May 1976.

From July 1977 until July 1979, he served as the operations officer of MCAS Yuma. He then returned overseas as the operations plans officer of the 3d Marine Division. Ordered back to MCAS Yuma in June 1980, he served as the commanding officer of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One. During this assignment, he was promoted to colonel in July 1981. He left MAWTS-1 in August 1982 and spent the next 10 months as a student at the State Department’s Senior

Seminar in Arlington, Va.

Maj. Gen. Butcher reported to the commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces, Southern Europe in Naples, Italy, in July 1983, where he served as the assistant chief of staff for Plans and Policy. While serving in this capacity, he was selected in April 1986 for promotion to brigadier general and was advanced to that grade on June 20, 1986.

On June 26, 1986, he assumed duty as the assistant wing commander, 3d MAW, MCAS El Toro, Calif. He was assigned duty as the commanding general, 6th Marine Expeditionary Brigade on Sept. 3, 1987. He was promoted to major general on March 9, 1989.

He was then assigned as the director for operations, U.S. Commander in Chief Pacific, Camp H.N. Smith, Hawaii, on July 26, 1989. General Butcher served in this capacity until July 26, 1991. He commanded Landing Force Training Command Pacific at Naval Air Base Coronado Calif., until his retirement on August 1, 1992.

His medals and decorations include: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Distinguished Service Medal; Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; Distinguished Flying Cross; Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V”; Air Medal with bronze numeral “15” and various other medals and ribbons.

Since his retirement, he has consulted with various organizations regarding joint

command and control and joint operations. He currently serves on the following board of directors: Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation (chairman); Area Eight; California Council of Chapter; Military Officers Association of America (president); Coronado Navy League; Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA (vice president); and the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum (ex-officio). He is also a member of The Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association and is listed in Marquis Who’s Who in America.





Platoon 2111
COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. A. J. Jordan
Costa Mesa, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. K. Lanford



Platoon 2113
SERIES HONOR MAN
Pfc. C. R. Ramirez
Harlingen, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. L. A. Aguilar



Platoon 2109
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. P. Gonzalez
Lewisville, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. T. Ramos



Platoon 2110
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. J. A. King
Corpus Christi, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. F. Torres



Platoon 2114
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. T. D. Tong
Katy, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. J. Brown



Platoon 2115
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. A. W. Reikenberg
Dodge City, Kan.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. Reed



Platoon 2114
HIGH SHOOTER (332)
Pfc. J. L. Hetland
Sioux Falls, S. D.
Marksmanship Instructor
Sgt. M. A. Burloa



Platoon 2111
HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. J. C. Bleske
Eau Claire, Wis.
Recruited by
Sgt. L. Schultz

ECHO COMPANY



Company E recruits who have completed the Land Navigation Course rest while they await further instruction from their drill instructors. Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron

2ND RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. G. G. Malkasian
Chaplain
Lt. W. N. Tomasek
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. M. J. O'Loughlin
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. C. A. Mejia

COMPANY E

Commanding Officer
Capt. A. K. Trung
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. J. R. Calhoun

SERIES 2109

Series Commander
Capt. C. A. Thacker
Chief Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. A. Moreno

PLATOON 2109

Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt U. Lemus
Drill Instructors
Sgt A. D. Carlton
Sgt N. Robinson

Pvt. V. C. Archer
Pvt. H. A. Barcus
Pvt. J. J. Bombardelli
Pvt. K. A. Brooks
*Pfc. B. L. Carr
Pfc. B. D. Carson
Pvt. P. Cha
Pfc. L. E. Conklin
Pvt. A. K. Corder
Pfc. M. P. Dennis
Pvt. J. C. Dill
Pvt. J. R. Douglas
Pvt. C. A. Esparza
*Pfc. R. Estrada
Pfc. B. Fernandez
Pfc. J. A. Gonzalez
Pfc. P. Gonzalez
Pvt. T. J. Gregg
Pvt. K. C. Harris
Pvt. R. J. Herrington
Pvt. D. R. Hernandez
Pvt. K. J. Hill
Pvt. R. P. Hill
Pvt. T. J. Hixson
Pvt. R. L. Ho
Pfc. J. D. Howard
Pvt. R. R. Jackson
Pfc. R. L. Kemper
Pfc. G. A. King

Pvt. J. M. King
Pvt. B. C. Knowles
Pvt. J. J. Kozlowski
Pvt. R. D. Laday
Pfc. J. J. Lahr
Pvt. J. A. Langenfeld
*Pfc. R. L. Lejeune
Pfc. M. E. Murillo
Pvt. A. K. Myers
Pvt. S. A. Nicholson
Pvt. B. K. Nuttall
Pvt. K. B. Park
*Pfc. M. J. Parks
Pvt. B. S. Payette
Pvt. T. K. Pershall
Pvt. B. E. Rodriguez
Pvt. H. R. Rodriguez
Pvt. R. J. Simonson
Pvt. C. J. Tevini
Pvt. O. Trevino
Pvt. R. M. Walker
Pfc. K. D. Wallin
Pvt. R. S. Wallin
Pfc. V. W. Wong

PLATOON 2110

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. K. D. Hall
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. S. Haynes
Staff Sgt. R. D. Hubert

Pfc. C. N. Arnold
Pfc. M. J. Baker
*Pfc. D. A. Benning
Pvt. M. J. Berger
Pvt. M. J. Birkett
Pfc. A. M. Boell
Pfc. M. A. Boulis
Pvt. C. P. Callahan
Pvt. J. G. Cantlin
Pfc. K. J. Chan
Pvt. K. J. Ciesla
Pvt. P. A. Clark
Pvt. J. D. Collins
Pvt. R. S. Cornwall
Pfc. N. B. Crandall
Pvt. M. R. Cross
Pvt. C. M. Davis
Pvt. R. G. Duran-Lopez
Pvt. N. J. Ebert
Pfc. F. Elkantar
Pvt. Z. J. Endrizzi
Pvt. D. G. Erlewein
Pvt. D. M. Faulkner
Pfc. J. W. Frazier
Pfc. N. R. Frazier
*Pfc. J. M. Freeman
Pfc. O. L. Galemore

Pvt. J. M. Garza
Pfc. O. R. Gonzalez
Pvt. U. Gonzalez Jr.
Pvt. K. A. Green
Pvt. G. B. Greene
Pfc. M. M. Guerrero Jr.
Pvt. M. A. Gulizia
Pfc. S. D. Hamer
Pvt. S. Hernandez III
Pfc. G. W. Houx
Pvt. B. R. Irish Jr.
Pvt. C. A. Jacobson
Pvt. D. L. Johnson
Pvt. J. M. Joseph
Pvt. J. V. Jurado
Pfc. D. H. Jwanowski
Pvt. M. C. Kerby
*Pfc. J. A. King
Pfc. N. M. Kroll
Pvt. J. W. Lee
Pfc. T. C. Linderroth
Pvt. M. E. Loparo
Pfc. K. T. Love
Pvt. W. M. Simmons
Pfc. D. J. Spykerman
Pvt. C. S. Thomson
Pfc. W. B. Vanalstine
*Pfc. T. M. Vigen

PLATOON 2111

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. J. Umana
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. E. M. Cabrera
Sgt. T. L. Horn

Pfc. B. J. Achman
Pvt. R. A. Alt II
Pvt. B. F. Alvarez
Pvt. J. I. Barraza
Pvt. M. W. Behrens
Pvt. K. A. Belay
*Pfc. A. Beltran
Pfc. J. M. Blackman
*Pfc. J. C. Bleske
Pvt. R. T. Bolles
Pvt. R. L. Boxleitner
Pvt. S. A. Brown
*Pfc. B. J. Burke
Pfc. F. M. Calonge
Pvt. M. D. Cesena
Pvt. N. A. Chambers
Pvt. C. A. Christian
Pvt. A. J. Cimino
Pvt. G. Collin
Pvt. S. A. Cook
Pvt. J. P. Dolan
Pvt. V. N. Duran
Pvt. M. J. Emery

Pvt. S. A. Escobar-McGraw
Pfc. C. A. Estrada Jr.
Pvt. G. J. Faber
Pvt. C. M. Gann
Pvt. C. M. Garcia
Pvt. N. J. Glenn
Pfc. R. E. Grinstead
Pvt. W. R. Gwin
Pvt. D. J. Harden
Pvt. D. D. Heidebrink
Pfc. S. N. Herbert
Pvt. C. A. Hill
Pvt. W. K. Holton
Pfc. B. J. Hoxworth
Pvt. D. K. Jackson
Pvt. T. T. Johnson
*Lance Cpl. A. J. Jordan
Pfc. D. J. Kerr
Pvt. P. D. Kilbourn
*Pfc. Q. L. Kirby
Pvt. J. D. Kirby
Pvt. W. L. Koch
Pfc. J. Krettler
Pvt. J. J. Krzysiak
Pfc. R. C. Lacombe
Pvt. J. J. Lange
Pfc. H. B. Larson
Pfc. R. R. Timbana
Pvt. C. R. Woodsum

SERIES 2113

Series Commander
1st Lt. D. P. Hagarty
Chief Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Robertson

PLATOON 2113

Senior Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. J. V. Standifird
Drill Instructors
Gunnery Sgt. N. E. Truite
Staff Sgt. J. R. Garcia
Sgt. B. W. Ormsby

*Pfc. J. D. Abbott
*Pfc. M. A. Alegria
Pvt. J. D. Becker
Pvt. G. D. Brewer
Pfc. A. M. Brooks
Pvt. J. D. Brown
Pfc. J. T. Brown
Pfc. M. S. Buell
Pfc. H. A. Correa
Pfc. C. B. Day
Pvt. P. M. Deleon
Pvt. J. A. Dobbins

Pvt. K. W. Elley
Pvt. B. F. Gardner
Pvt. J. R. Garza
Pvt. C. R. Goodman
Pvt. J. C. Green
Pvt. R. J. Hartke
Pvt. C. L. Hemphill
Pfc. L. R. Hilkin
Pvt. K. J. Hughes
Pvt. Z. D. Jones
Pvt. J. C. Julian
Pfc. B. J. Kennedy
Pvt. C. M. Lewison
Pfc. C. D. Long
Pvt. R. Mancillas
Pvt. J. C. Martinez
*Pfc. J. E. Martinez
Pvt. S. D. Matson
Pvt. T. J. Matson
Pfc. P. L. Merritt
Pvt. G. A. Morris Jr.
Pfc. J. P. Murray
Pvt. C. W. Novak
Pvt. J. M. Roberts
Pvt. S. R. Powers
Pvt. J. A. Ragan
Pfc. C. R. Ramirez
Pvt. J. L. Ramirez
Pfc. A. A. Reamartinez
Pvt. J. Reyes Jr.
Pfc. C. P. Rock
Pvt. R. R. Rodriguez
Pvt. B. D. Rushing
*Pfc. B. W. Schmidt
Pvt. T. U. Sims
Pvt. R. Vasquez
Pvt. R. A. Venter
Pvt. T. R. Whitman
Pvt. A. L. Widner
Pvt. T. K. Williams
Pfc. R. D. Wise
Pvt. S. F. Wise
Pvt. D. C. Wood
Pvt. J. Xue

PLATOON 2114

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. H. J. Ledesma
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. G. Hernandez
Staff Sgt. L. A. Tuning

Pvt. G. Barrigacorrea
*Pfc. S. B. Brown
Pvt. C. M. Churchman
Pvt. A. S. Davis
Pvt. S. J. Davis
Pvt. R. A. Dobbs
Pvt. B. L. Ellis

Pvt. C. R. Ellis
Pvt. T. C. Garrett
*Pfc. J. L. Hetland
Pfc. S. J. Hopkinson
Pvt. B. S. Lennon
Pvt. O. D. Lopez
Pvt. J. C. Magana
Pfc. J. A. Martinez
Pvt. L. F. Maya
Pfc. S. D. McConville
Pfc. N. J. McGahan
Pvt. S. M. McNeil
Pfc. P. F. Mekus
Pfc. R. Monge-Salinas
Pvt. A. Munoz IV
Pfc. T. R. Myer
Pvt. E. R. Nippert
Pvt. P. M. O'Connor
Pvt. B. L. Quintana
Pvt. A. C. Raewill
Pfc. R. C. Ratcliffe
Pfc. K. M. Riley
Pvt. D. P. Roberts
Pvt. J. M. Roberts
Pfc. J. P. Salinas II
Pvt. M. A. Sanchez II
Pfc. K. A. Sandoval
Pfc. J. D. Schmidt
Pvt. A. J. Scott
Pvt. B. M. Sexton
Pvt. W. R. Shea
Pfc. A. G. Shuffield
Pvt. C. S. Sparks
Pvt. B. E. Steffen
Pvt. C. Stewart Jr.
Pvt. B. M. Stucko
Pfc. T. D. Tong
Pfc. E. F. Vasquez
*Pfc. S. J. Vuylsteke
Pfc. S. J. Walters
Pfc. K. R. Weiss
Pvt. L. A. Welch
Pvt. B. J. White
Pvt. A. P. Wirz
Pvt. S. D. York
*Pfc. C. A. Zimmerman
Pfc. C. E. Zinda

PLATOON 2115

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. A. Houtz
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. A. W. Tahir
Sgt. E. L. Harstine

Pvt. J. R. Carrillo
Pfc. D. F. March
Pfc. R. O. McCrory II
Pvt. M. J. Melendez III

Pvt. D. J. Miller
Pfc. S. C. Moore
Pfc. N. Morrissey
Pvt. J. J. Nelson
Pvt. T. P. Nelson
Pfc. R. E. Orbon Jr.
Pfc. J. A. Padilla
Pfc. J. A. Martinez
Pvt. L. F. Maya
Pfc. S. D. McConville
Pfc. N. J. McGahan
Pvt. S. M. McNeil
Pfc. P. F. Mekus
Pfc. R. Monge-Salinas
Pvt. A. Munoz IV
Pfc. T. R. Myer
Pvt. E. R. Nippert
Pvt. P. M. O'Connor
Pvt. B. L. Quintana
Pvt. A. C. Raewill
Pfc. R. C. Ratcliffe
Pfc. K. M. Riley
Pvt. D. P. Roberts
Pvt. J. M. Roberts
Pfc. J. P. Salinas II
Pvt. M. A. Sanchez II
Pfc. K. A. Sandoval
Pfc. J. D. Schmidt
Pvt. A. J. Scott
Pvt. B. M. Sexton
Pvt. W. R. Shea
Pfc. A. G. Shuffield
Pvt. C. S. Sparks
Pvt. B. E. Steffen
Pvt. C. Stewart Jr.
Pvt. B. M. Stucko
Pfc. T. D. Tong
Pfc. E. F. Vasquez
*Pfc. S. J. Vuylsteke
Pfc. S. J. Walters
Pfc. K. R. Weiss
Pvt. L. A. Welch
Pvt. B. J. White
Pvt. A. P. Wirz
Pvt. S. D. York
*Pfc. C. A. Zimmerman
Pfc. C. E. Zinda

*Denotes Meritorious Promotions



This storm trooper stands at the ready to put down all who oppose Comic-Con. He was one of many devoted Star Wars fans donning their armor, Jedi robes and uniforms to show their appreciation for the famous saga. *Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron*

Single Marines provide security, observe pop arts at Comic-Con

PFC. PAUL MATTHEW BROWN
Chevron staff

Not long ago, in a convention center not too far, far away was Comic-Con, 2008.

Thousands of people came from around the world to be a part of an annual gathering of those interested in popular arts and culture July 23 through 27 at the San Diego Convention Center. Those attending included 25 Marines from the Single Marine Program.

These SMP volunteers provided crowd control at the event. The majority of the Marines ended up controlling

the lines directly in front of the celebrities and provided assistance when asked.

Comic-Con had not always been an event of such a grand scale. It in fact, was conceived quite modestly

This annual multi-genre fan convention was founded by a group of San Diegans as the Golden State Comic Book Convention in 1970 and was held in a nearby hotel. The event was later called the San Diego Comic Book Convention and then was changed to Comic-Con International: San Diego.

The event started out showcasing comic books, science fiction, fantasy and TV and movies with assorted other

related popular arts. The first event was also host to approximately 300 convention goers.

As years passed, the event grew in multiple ways. The number of attendees increased, as did the variety of popular arts and culture showcased each year.

The convention is now home to such elements as web comics, horror, anime, manga, animation, collectible card games, toys and video games. It also hosts over 125,000 attendees.

Celebrities such as Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*, actor Keanu Reeves, Will Wright, the man behind games such as *"The Sims"* and the upcoming *"Spore"* were among those who stood out in the crowd.

"Working allowed me the opportunity to help celebrities and to simply people-watch," said SMP Cpl. Steve A. Aguilar of the Recruit Administrative Branch. "It is also interesting to see how big the celebrity's fan base really is. Plus, I don't get to stand around and talk to celebrities that often," Aguilar added.

Comic-Con lasted four full days with one pre convention night lasting three hours on Wednesday. Only a few thousand people showed up. The majority of those were Comic-Con staff, booth workers, artists and corporate workers.

Thursday through Sunday were packed not only with events but with people as well. Every day leading to Saturday brought a larger crowd, with the size peeking on Saturday.

During the four busiest days, there were two, four-hour shifts the SMP volunteers could work. Those shifts were morning and afternoon time slots changing slightly each day to adapt to the changes in pace.

The SMP volunteers were not required to work 100 percent of the time. They were allowed to sample all areas of the convention.

There were many events upstairs that the SMP volunteers were able to see while at Comic-Con separate from the ocean of vender booths set up downstairs. The range of events was extensive. Some of these events included: writers, directors and actors answering

questions about their new upcoming TV shows or; classes on how to get in the comic book or game industry; voice-over actor workshops; and a masquerade ball on Saturday night.

There was also a drawing to win a free car covered in Captain America art and signed by Stan Lee, creator of famous comic characters including Spiderman.

The lucky winner was 12th Marine Corps District Sgt. Major Jayme F. Winders.

"People keep telling me I should sell it on eBay, but I'm not going to do that. I love this stuff," said Winders.

The masquerade ball was one of the more popular events. It was a hybrid of a talent show and runway fashion show. The volunteers of the SMP were given VIP seating in the front half of the ballroom.

The SMP Marines were treated with a viewing of nearly 50 teams of contestants trying to best entertain the crowd and win the judge's favor with their showmanship and costume craftsmanship. One group stood out among all others with their parody of the popular Nintendo series, *Super Smash Brothers*. This group was called the Nintendon'ts.

"My favorite group had to be the Nintendon'ts," said Aguilar. "I couldn't stop laughing. I really think they stole the show."

Sunday was Children's Day and also the last day of the convention. Because the crowds had reached its peak earlier and was now dwindling, the SMP Marines were allowed extra time to explore the convention.

"It was a very interesting opportunity to see all the new comics and movies," said Aguilar. "It was fun seeing all the different costumes people wore. It was like everyday was Halloween at Comic-Con." Aguilar also said it was his first time at a Comic-Con and he was surprised how much he enjoyed it.

"I think everyone should at least visit this place on one of the days of Comic Con," said Aguilar. "I myself found out I was more of a nerd than I ever thought I was."



Sgt. Major Jayme F. Winders, 12th Marine Corps District sergeant major, and his wife, Lisa, stand by their new Captain America themed Honda Element they won in a drawing at Comic-Con. Winders is thankful for his wife entering them in the drawing for the car because he said he wouldn't have entered otherwise. *Pfc. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron*